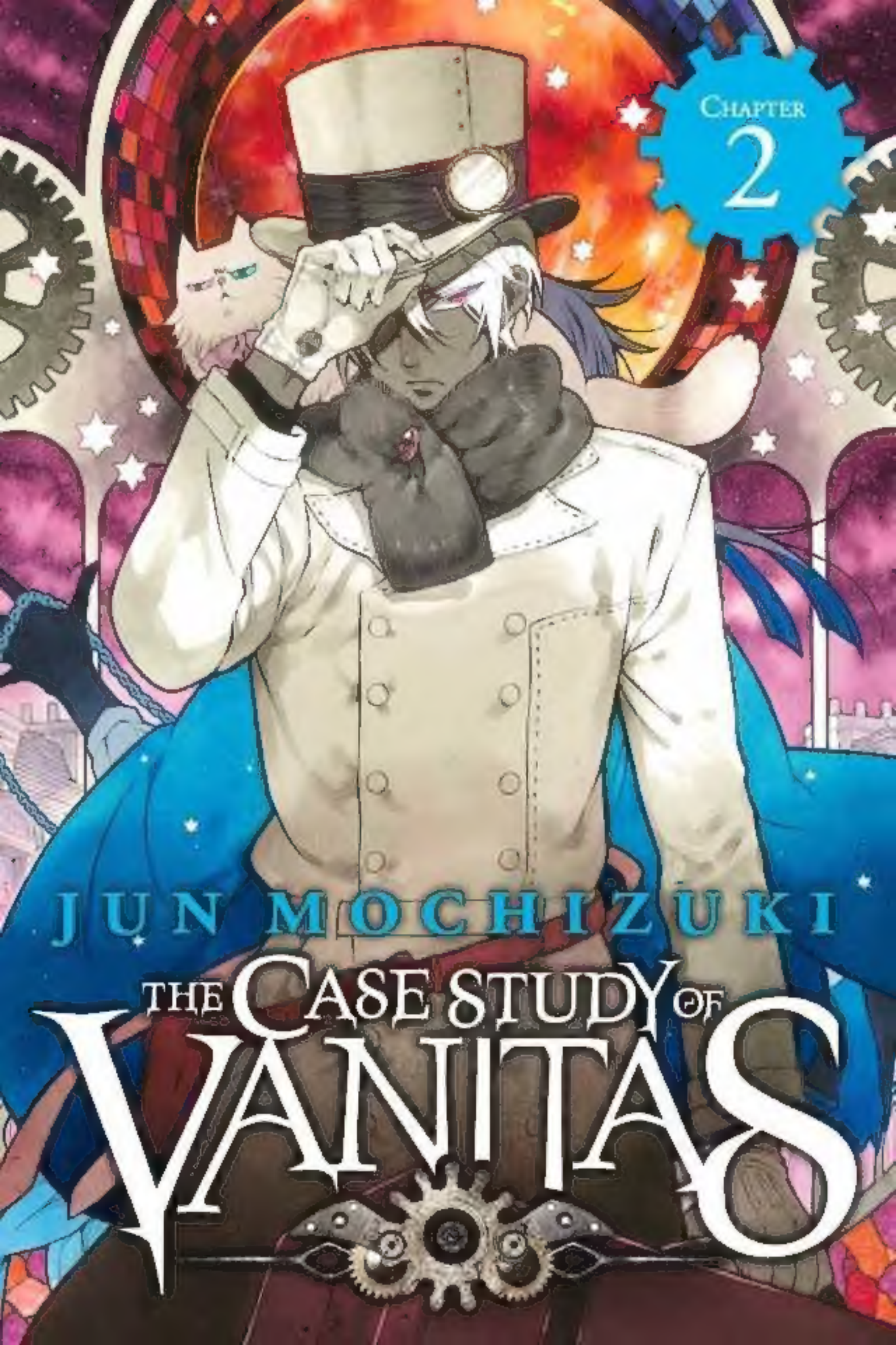

Chapter
2
JUN MOCHIZUKI
THE CASE STUDY OF
VANITAS

GRAND-FATHER TOLD ME SO.
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL VAMPIRES WHO TURN STRANGE OR VIOLENT ONE DAY, OUT OF THE BLUE.
GARI (SCRIT)
GARI (SCRIT)
DO YOU KNOW...
...ABOUT "CURSE-BEARERS," NOÉ?
GATSU (CRASH)
... VANI-TAS!
THE CURSE OF...
THAT'S OBVIOUS.
A CURSE...? WHOSE?
...
OOH
ARE YOU OKAY?

PERO (BUT)
PERO

...EVEN IF... THERE WAS A CURSE-BEARER RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU...
NOÉ! COME PLAY OVER HERE!
SAY, NOÉ...
KUCHA (SLURP)

...THINK THAT BLUE MOON WAS BEAUTIFUL?
...COULD YOU STILL...
JUN MOCHIZUKI
THE CASE STUDY OF
VANITAS
Mémoire 2 Noé IN THE CITY OF FLOWERS

...I HOPE THIS FINDS YOU IN GOOD HEALTH.
...DEAR TEACHER...

IN CONSE-QUENCE, I MET A MAN.

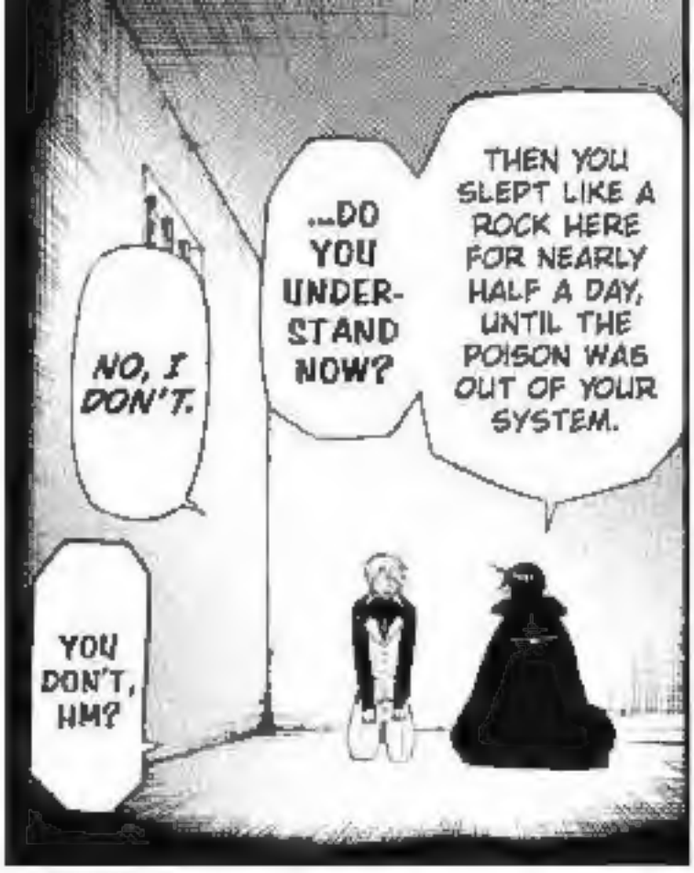
HAVING RECEIVED YOUR LETTER AND DEPARTED FOR PARIS...
...I WAS INVOLVED IN A CERTAIN INCIDENT ON BOARD THE AIRSHIP.

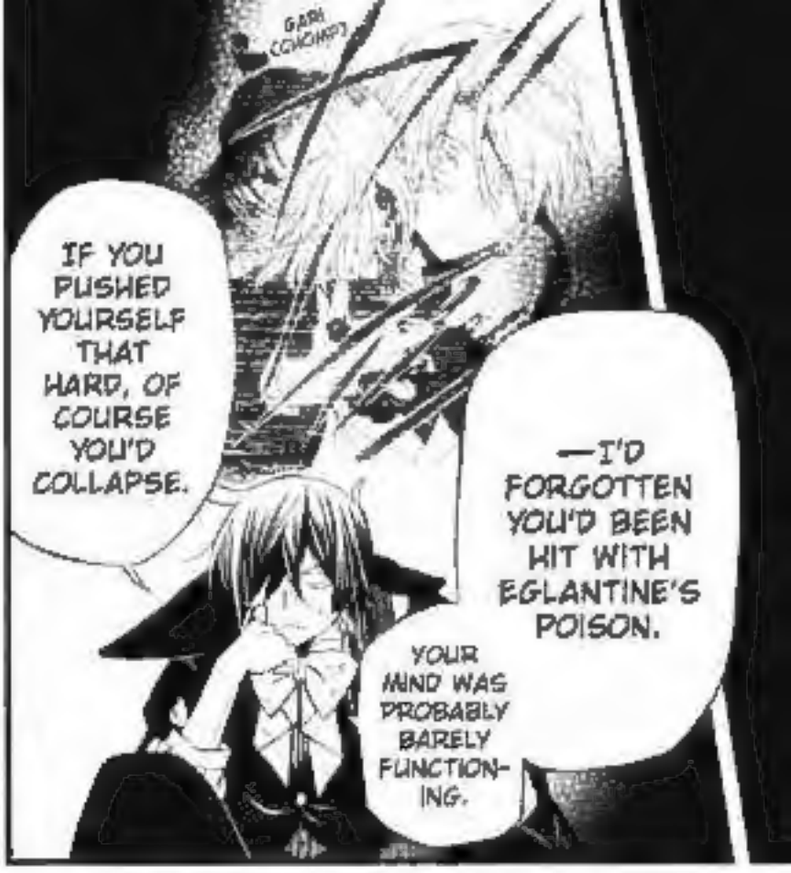
HE STYLES HIMSELF A "VAMPIRE MEDICAL SPECIALIST."
...AND IS AN AVERAGE HUMAN BEING.
HE SAYS HE INHERITED THE BOOK OF VANITAS FROM THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON...
HIS NAME IS VANITAS.

...RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES.
HE SAVED A VAMPIRE ...
...WHAT IS IT?
OUT WITH IT.
...
VANITAS, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.
WHY ARE WE IN PRISON?
MM.
A VERY GOOD QUESTION, MY DEAR NOÉ.

NO!
...LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH!
—TEN HOURS EARLIER...
I'LL SAY IT AS OFTEN AS I MUST.
NOÉ...
...YOU ARE SERIOUSLY ANNOYING.
MY, BUT I'M HUNGRY!
AND BY THE WAY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
IF WE TALK IT THROUGH, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND!
LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY FIRST.
KYA! (WHEE)
WHY NOT!?
WHAT OBJECTION COULD YOU HAVE?
WE'LL TALK AFTERWARD!
IN THAT CASE, GET THAT ERRAND TAKEN CARE OF!
...YOU'RE COMING WITH ME?
I BEG YOUR PARDON, BUT... THERE'S A PLACE I MUST GO IMMEDIATELY.
...? MY HEAD FEELS HEAVY...
HFF...

ALL RIGHT... I'LL JUST GO COLLECT MY CAT AND LUGGAGE. I'LL BE BACK...
!!?
HFF...
WE'RE HERE, VANITAS.
HFF...
AAAAH!! THERE HE IS! THAT'S HIM! THE INTRUDER !!!
WELL, BE-CAUSE... MY CAT...
HFF...
WHY DID YOU SAUNTER RIGHT BACK TO THE AIRSHIP!? ARE YOU AN IDIOT!?
CURSES ...!


THEN YOU SLEPT LIKE A ROCK HERE FOR NEARLY HALF A DAY, UNTIL THE POISON WAS OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM.
...DO YOU UNDER-STAND NOW?
NO, I DON'T.
YOU DON'T, HM?


GARA (CRUMP)
IF YOU PUSHED YOURSELF THAT HARD, OF COURSE YOU'D COLLAPSE.
—I'D FORGOTTEN YOU'D BEEN HIT WITH EGLANTINE'S POISON.
YOUR MIND WAS PROBABLY BARELY FUNCTION-ING.

YOU ACTUALLY DID INFILTRATE THE AIRSHIP...
...BUT I JUST HAPPENED TO BE ON THE SCENE. WHY DID THEY ARREST ME TOO!?
IT MAKES NO SENSE!
BECAUSE I TOLD THEM YOU WERE MY ACCOMPLICE, MOOOO-ROOON!!

HUH...? THE BOOK OF VANITAS TOO!?
OF COURSE.
WHA ...?

MY WALLET'S GONE.
YES, THEY CONFIS-CATED ALL OUR POSSES-SIONS.

NO!
I ONLY...
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM!?
WHAT? DID YOU WANT THAT BOOK?
...ONLY...
.....
FIND THE BOOK OF VANITAS WITHOUT FAIL... AND SEE FOR YOURSELF.
THE TRUE CHARACTER OF THE BOOK OF VANITAS—!
MON CHATON...
...I WISH YOU TO FLY TO PARIS IMMEDIATELY.

"SEE FOR YOURSELF"... THIS TEACHER OF YOURS HAS AN AWFULLY VAGUE WAY OF PUTTING THINGS.
...HM.

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY OUT THERE
NO, BEFORE ANY OF THAT...
WHAT IS MY TEACHER...
...TRYING TO MAKE ME DO...?
HE'S RIGHT.
HE DIDN'T SAY "STEAL THE BOOK" OR "DESTROY IT."

WHAT ON EARTH... ARE YOU?
I WILL SAVE YOU!!

HANG ON, NOÉ!
WHAT IS YOUR CONNECTION TO THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON—?
HOW DID YOU GET THE BOOK OF VANITAS?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHAT"?

WHY THIS STUBBORN REFUSAL TO HELP?
IF IT'S THE BOOK OF VANITAS YOU'RE AFTER, YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME.
FULL MOON
YES!?

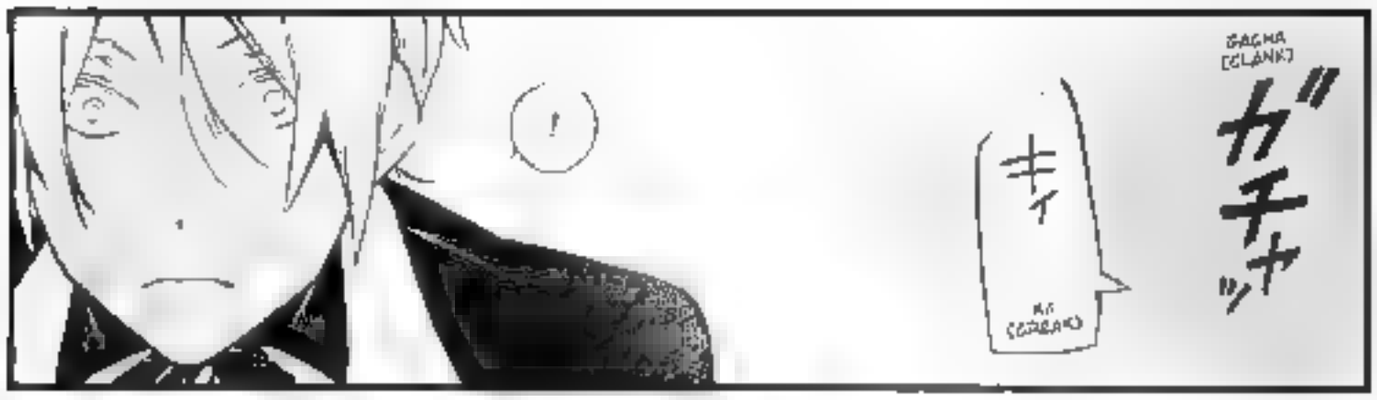
SINCE I'VE BEEN TOLD TO DISCERN THE BOOK'S TRUE CHARACTER, I SHOULD STAY NEAR ITS OWNER.
IT'S EXACTLY AS HE SAYS!
...YOU'RE RIGHT!
HEY.

...WHY WAS I SO...
AND YET...

GON
I SEE.. I'VE GOT IT, VANITAS!

...I JUST DON'T LIKE YOU VERY MUCH!!
I SUS-PECT...

UH. YES WHAT SHOULD WE DO, HM?
FOR MY TEACHER'S SAKE, I SHOULD PROBABLY GO WITH YOU BUT LISTENING OBEDIENTLY TO SOMEONE I DON'T LIKE S BAD FOR MY MENTAL HEALTH, OR RATHER, IT'S PHYSIOLOGICALLY IMPOSSIBLE!
WHAT SHOULD I DO!?


GACHA (CLANK)
ガチャッ
キィ
KI (CREAK)

HUH...?
..TO HOLD YOU HERE ANY LONGER.
WE AREN'T ABLE...
OUT.

BATAN (SLAM)
バタン
THEY KEPT US LONGER THAN I THOUGHT THEY WOULD.
????!?
.....

..SO VAMPIRE-RELATED INCIDENTS THAT OCCUR ON "THIS SIDE" HAVE TO BE COMPLETELY ERASED.
AS FAR AS HUMANS ARE CONCERNED, YOU VAMPIRES ARE "FORGOTTEN BEINGS" NOW...
HUH?

THE VAMPIRES PROBABLY ARRANGED THINGS WITH THE HUMANS.
YES, PRETTY MUCH
YOU MEAN THEY'VE HUSHED IT UP?

...THIS IS AN INVITATION FROM THE COUNT.

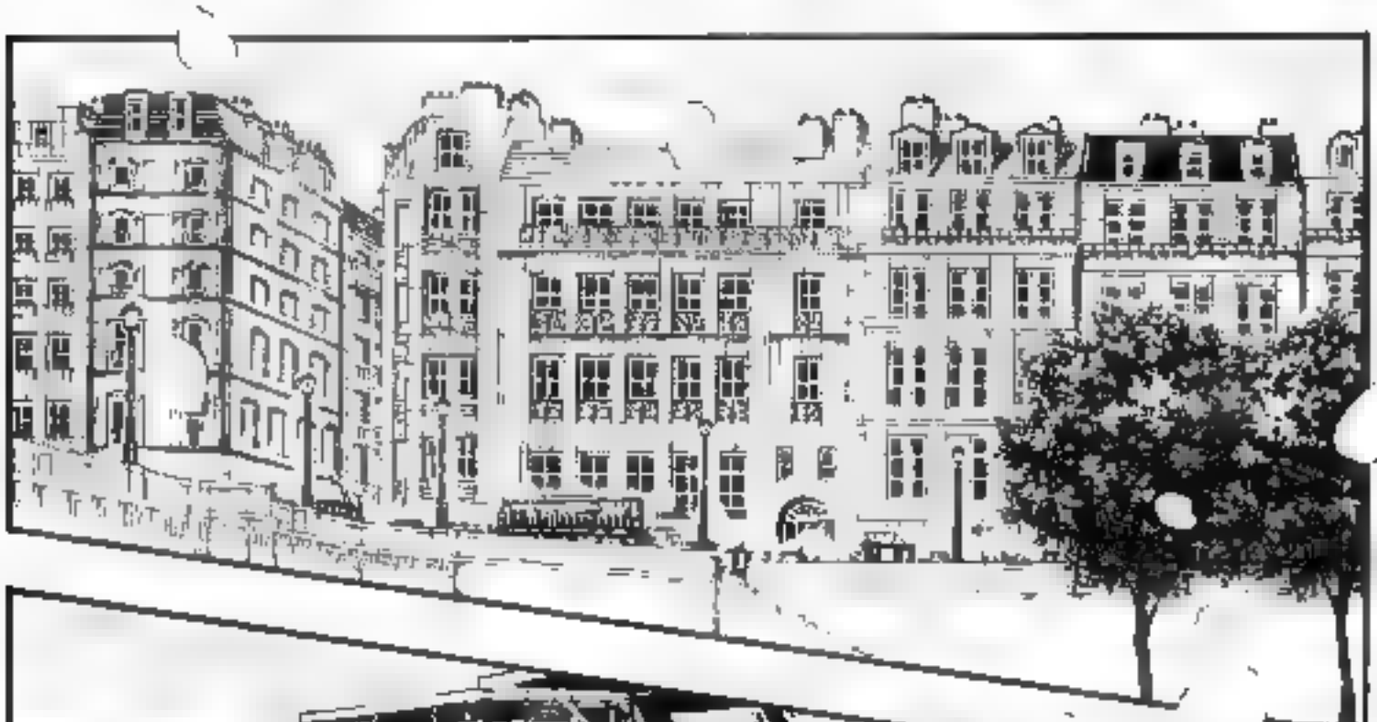
GOOD. IN THAT CASE, I'M SURE...

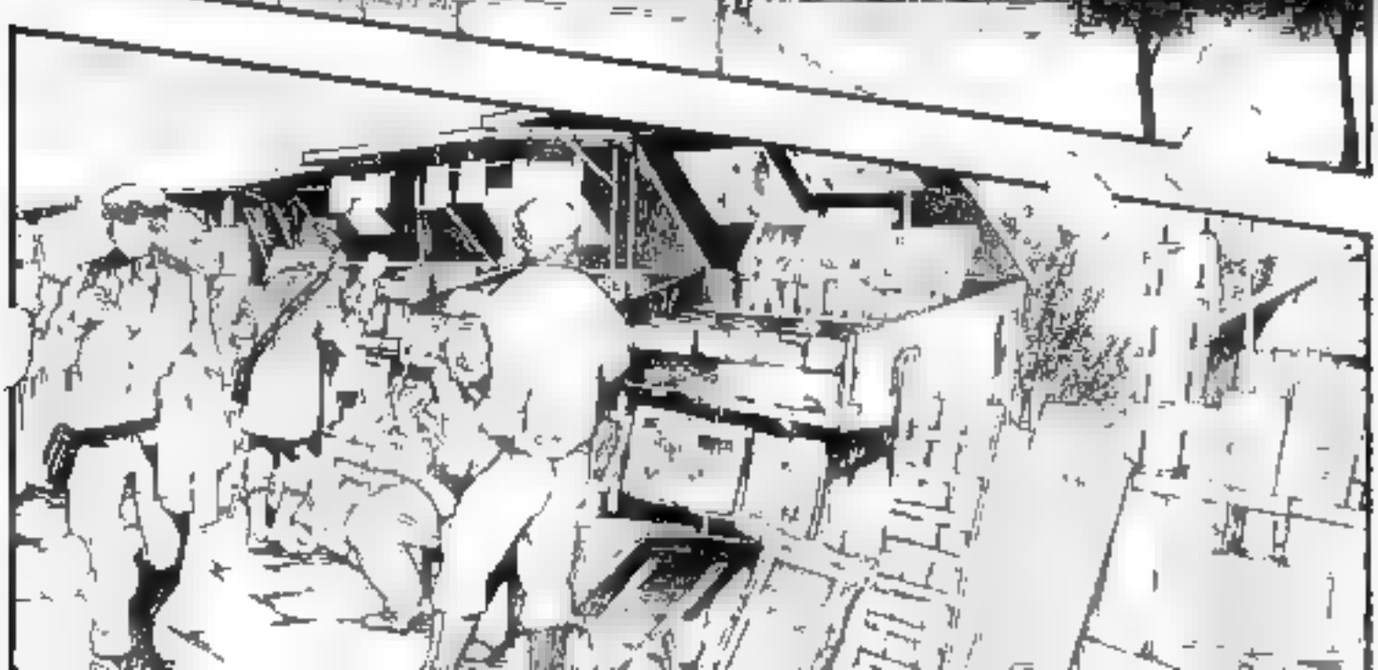
...MLLE. AMELIA IS ALSO..
NOE...

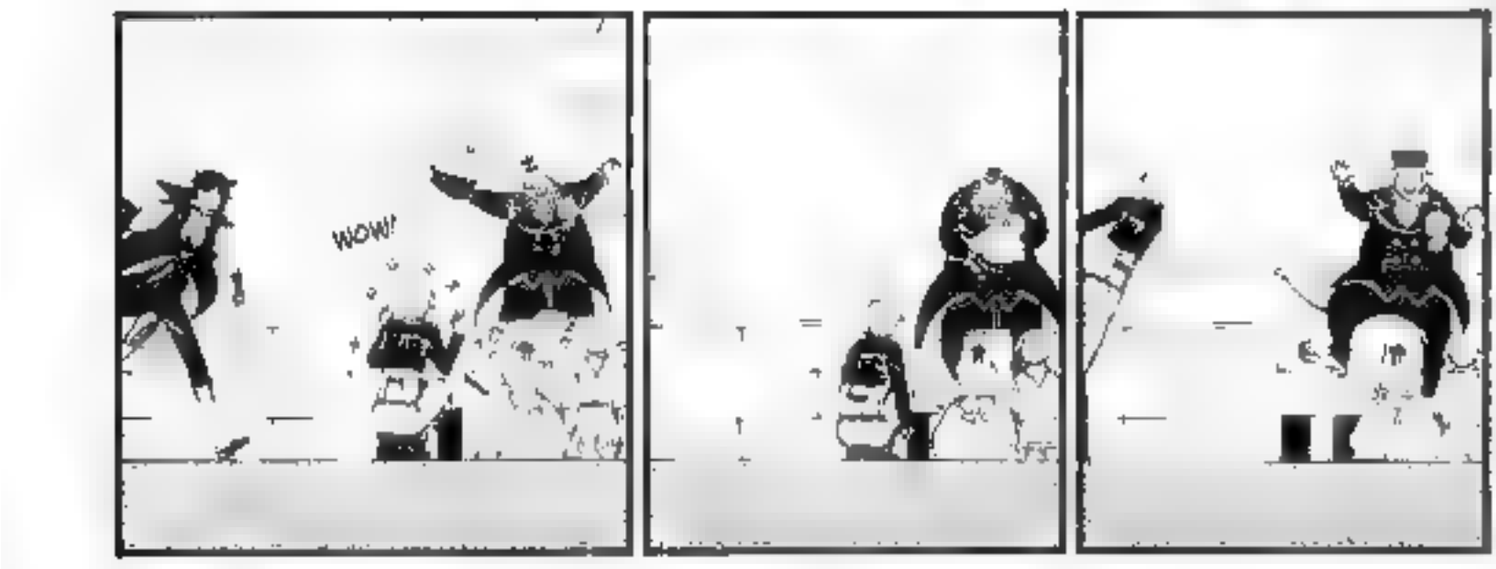
!!
MURR
!!
COME WITH ME. I'LL TAKE YOU THERE
HE HAS MY THINGS TOO
DO YOU MEAN IT!?
HE SAYS TO COME TO THIS ADDRESS TO COLLECT OUR CONFISCATED
AND THE THINGS WE LEFT ON THE AIRSHIP.
THE COUNT ...?
BLA (PWOOSH)
I SEE.
THAT'S A GREAT HELP. IT'S MY FIRST TIME IN PARIS, YOU KNOW!

...TO PARIS, THE CITY OF FLOWERS.

WELCOME...





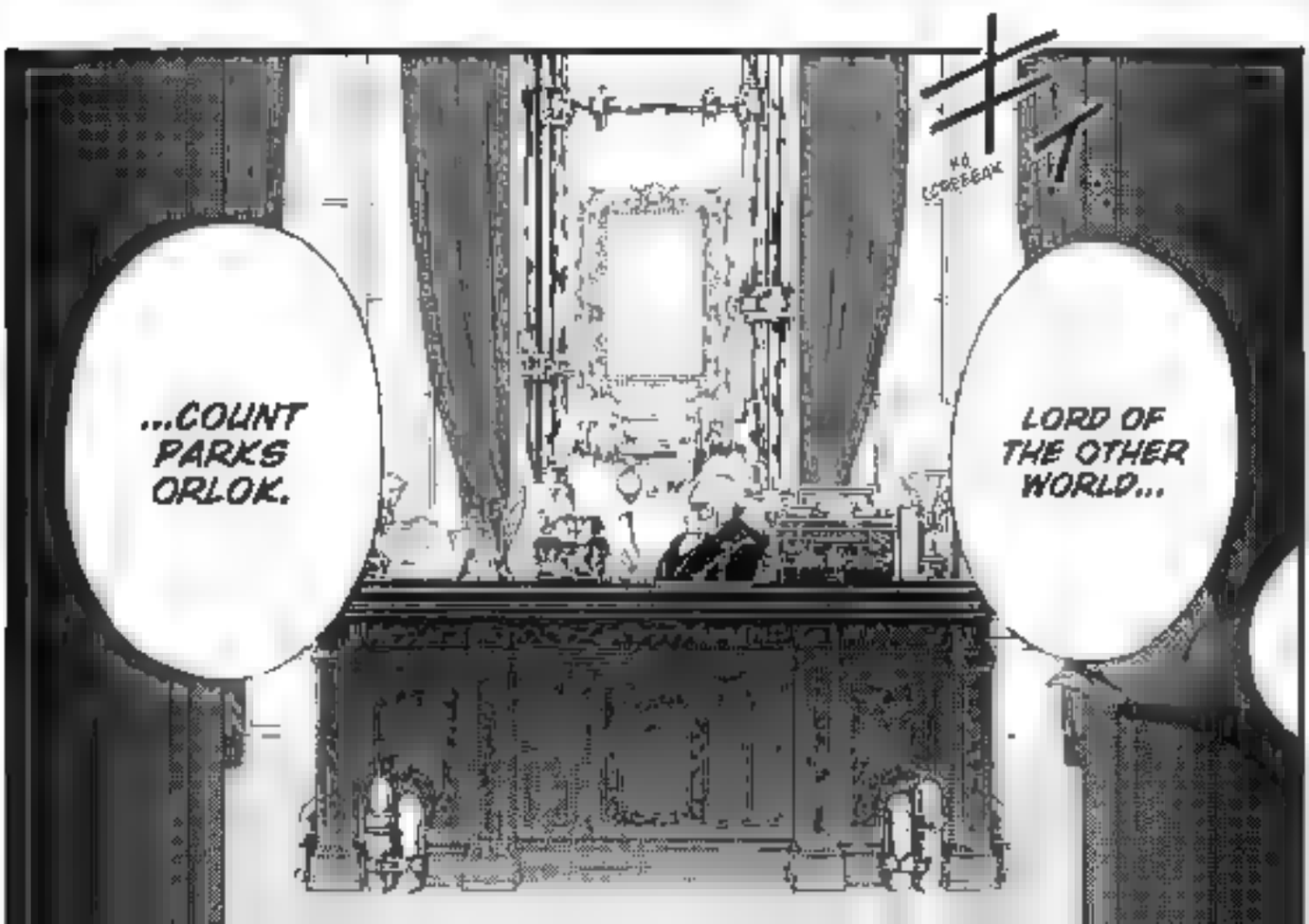

WOW!

THE GALERIE VALENTINE.
GALERIE VALENTINE
—THIS IS IT.

WHY ARE YOU SO TIRED, VANITAS?
HEE (WHEEZE)
BECAUSE SOMEBODY KEPT DISAPPEARING THE MOMENT I TOOK MY EYES OFF HIM!
WHAT ARE YOU, A CHILD!?
AFTER THE OLD WAR...
..VAMPIRES WERE FORBIDDEN TO DRINK HUMAN BLOOD, AND MOST OF THEM DISAPPEARED BEYOND THE BARRIER.
THE VAMPIRE WHO HAD US RELEASED IS HERE?
THAT'S RIGHT.

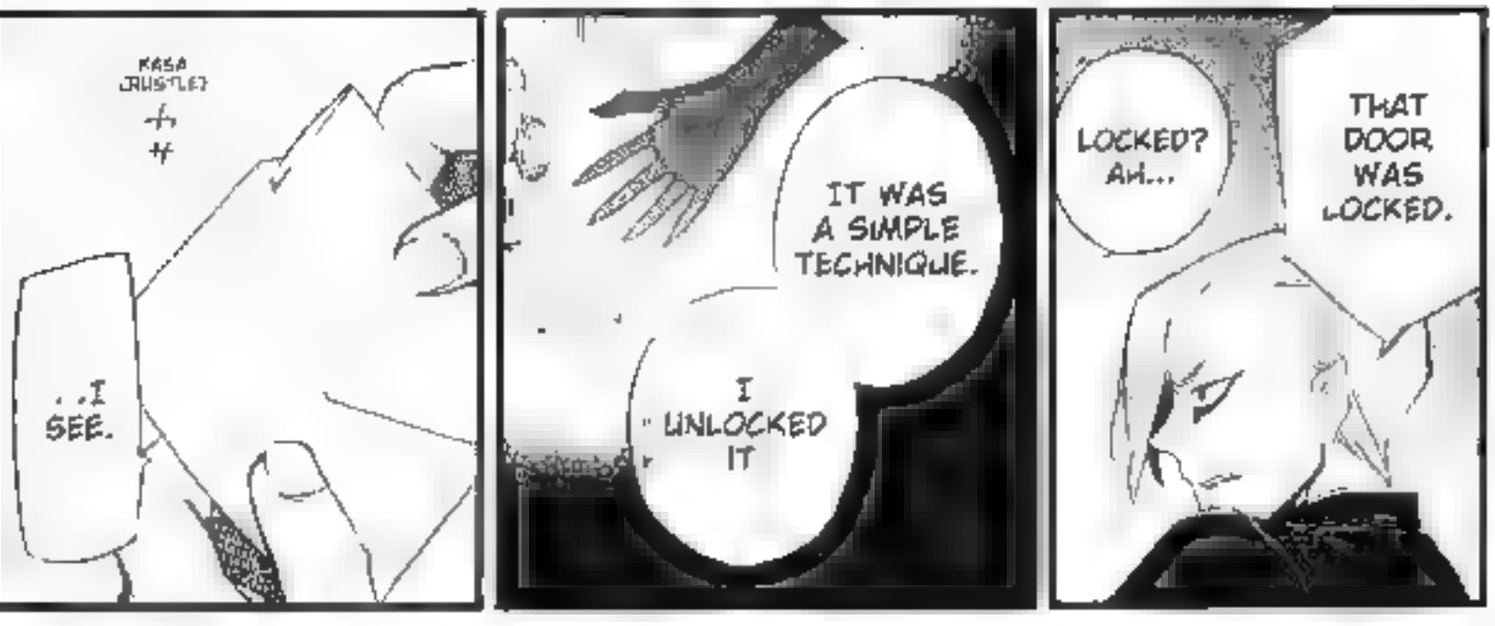
EVEN SO, MANY VAMPIRES STILL LIVE IN THE HUMAN WORLD.

THAT'S THIS MAN—
TO KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE ON VAMPIRE ACTIVITIES HERE IN PARIS, AND TO PRESERVE THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE HUMAN AND VAMPIRE WORLDS.
THERE IS ONE APPOINTED BY THE QUEEN


...COUNT PARKS ORLOK.
LORD OF THE OTHER WORLD...

DON'T MOVE.

ANYONE TOO ILL-MANNERED TO KNOCK MIGHT AS WELL BE AN INTRUDER.
SILENCE.
THAT'S QUITE THE WELCOME YOU SUMMONED US, YOU KNOW


KASA (RUSTLE)
..I SEE.
IT WAS A SIMPLE TECHNIQUE.
I UNLOCKED IT
LOCKED? AH...
THAT DOOR WAS LOCKED.

SO YOU'RE THE HUMAN WHO'S PASSING HIMSELF OFF AS "VANITAS."
GI (CREAK)

THEY TELL ME YOU ACTIVELY SEEK OUT AND MAKE CONTACT WITH CURSE-BEARING VAMPIRES.
I'VE HEARD MUCH ABOUT THIS "HUMAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF A VAMPIRE DOCTOR."

!!
MURR!

MROOOWR
CURSE-BEARING

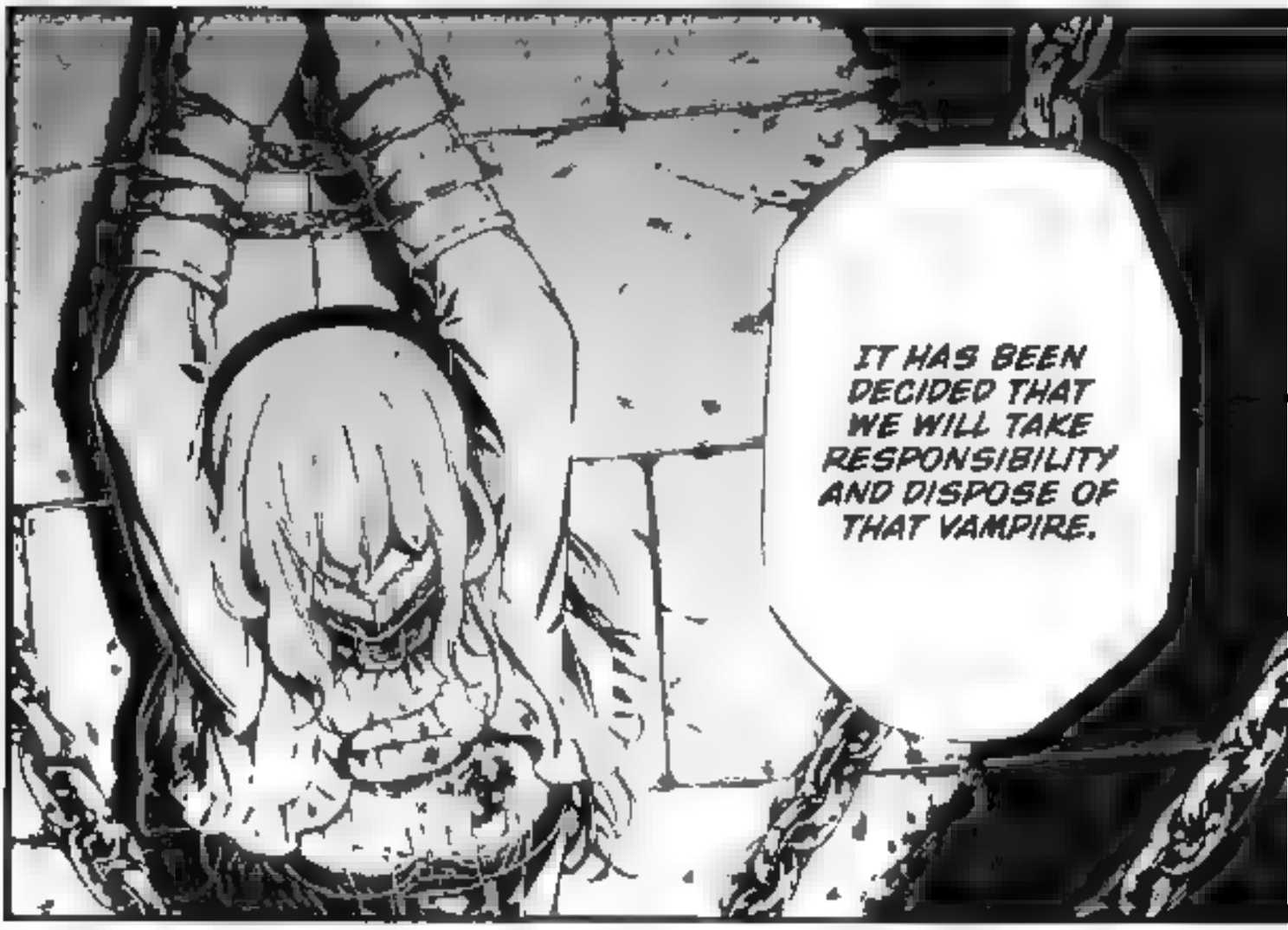
...
HA HA!
COUNT!
LET'S STOP BEATING AROUND THE BUSH, SHALL WE?

HERE ARE YOUR THINGS.
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY—

...
SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE MISSING.

THE CULPRIT BEHIND THE SERIAL MURDERS HASN'T BEEN CAUGHT YET, HAVE THEY?
A VAMPIRE?
YOU CAN'T REALLY HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON ME.
...!?
...I'LL BE BLUNT.
RETURN THE BOOK OF VANITAS AND AMELIA RUTH TO ME.
I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS TO ASK HER.
I'LL THANK YOU NOT TO TAKE LIBERTIES WITH MY FORMER PATIENT.

THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY
I THOUGHT SHE'D ALREADY BEEN SET FREE, LIKE US.
HUH ?
MLLE. AMELIA IS ALL RIGHT ISN'T SHE?
VANITAS


IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT WE WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND DISPOSE OF THAT VAMPIRE.

MLLE. AMELIA IS ALREADY CURED!
COUNT, WAIT! PLEASE!
ONCE THE BOURREAU ARRIVES, THE FORMAL TIES W'LL—
WA—
WE CANNOT ALLOW CURSE-BEARERS TO LIVE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
BY... THIS BOOK, WAS IT?
..CURED?
BALDERDASH!!
I SAW HIM RESTORE MLLE. AMELIA WITH THE POWER OF THE BOOK OF VANITAS.
SO—

HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!

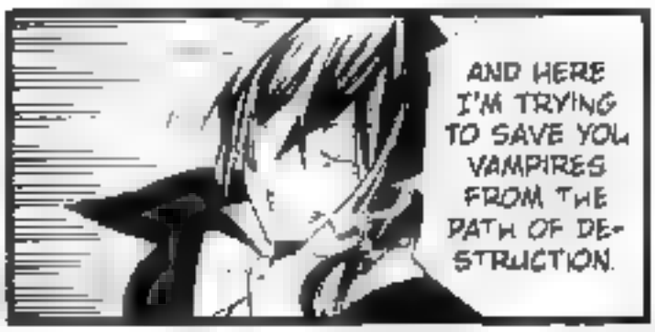
DO YOU TAKE THAT MAN'S NONSENSE SERIOUSLY?
CURSED GRIMOIRES DO NOT EXIST! THIS THING IS MERE RUBBISH!

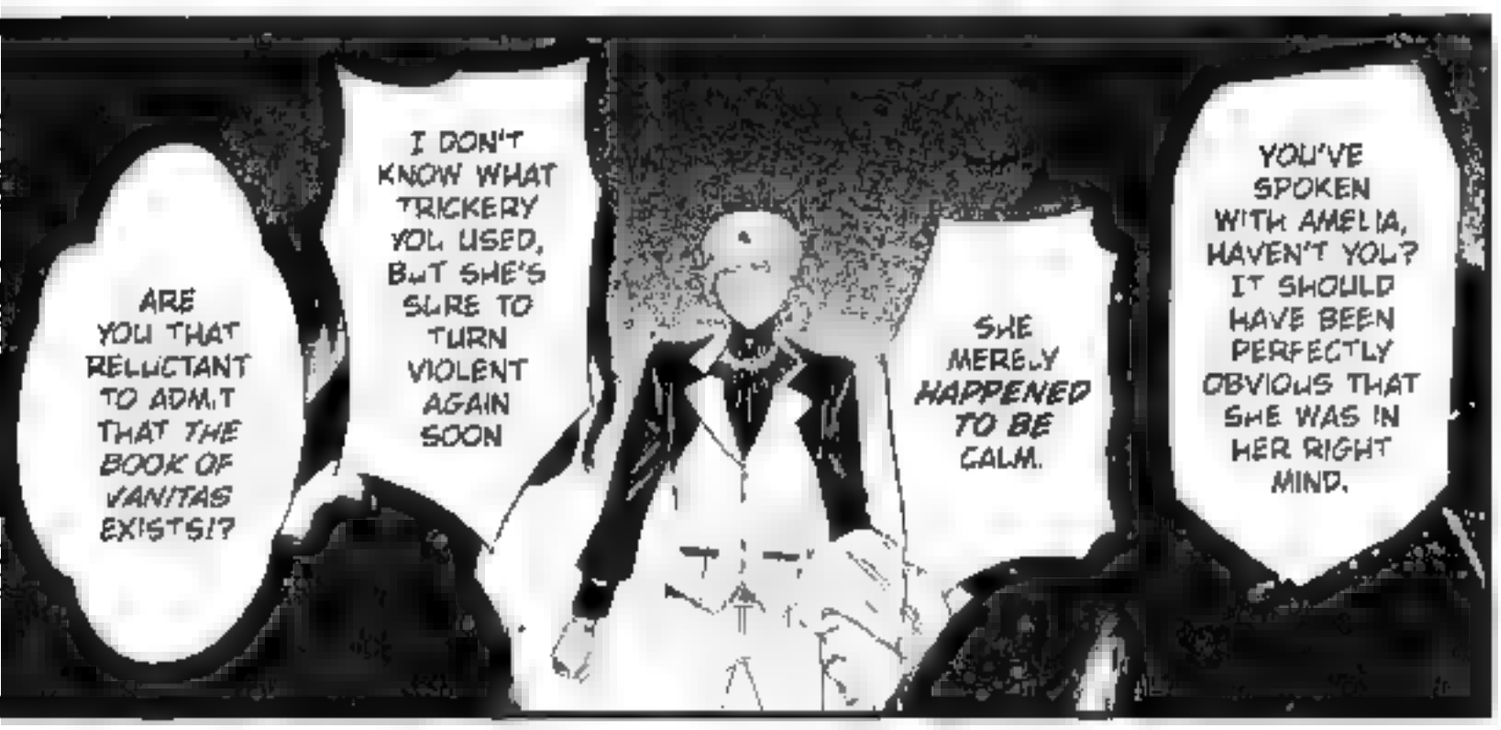
I, ITS OWNER, AM THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN EVEN OPEN THE BOOK, YOU SEE!
WHILE YOU HAVE IT, IT'S MERE RUBBISH
PRECISELY!

WHY, YOU..!
COULDN'T YOU JUST SAY, "PLEASE TEACH ME HOW TO USE THE BOOK"?
I EXPECT I WAS SUMMONED BECAUSE YOU MANAGED TO STEAL THE BOOK BUT DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO USE IT.

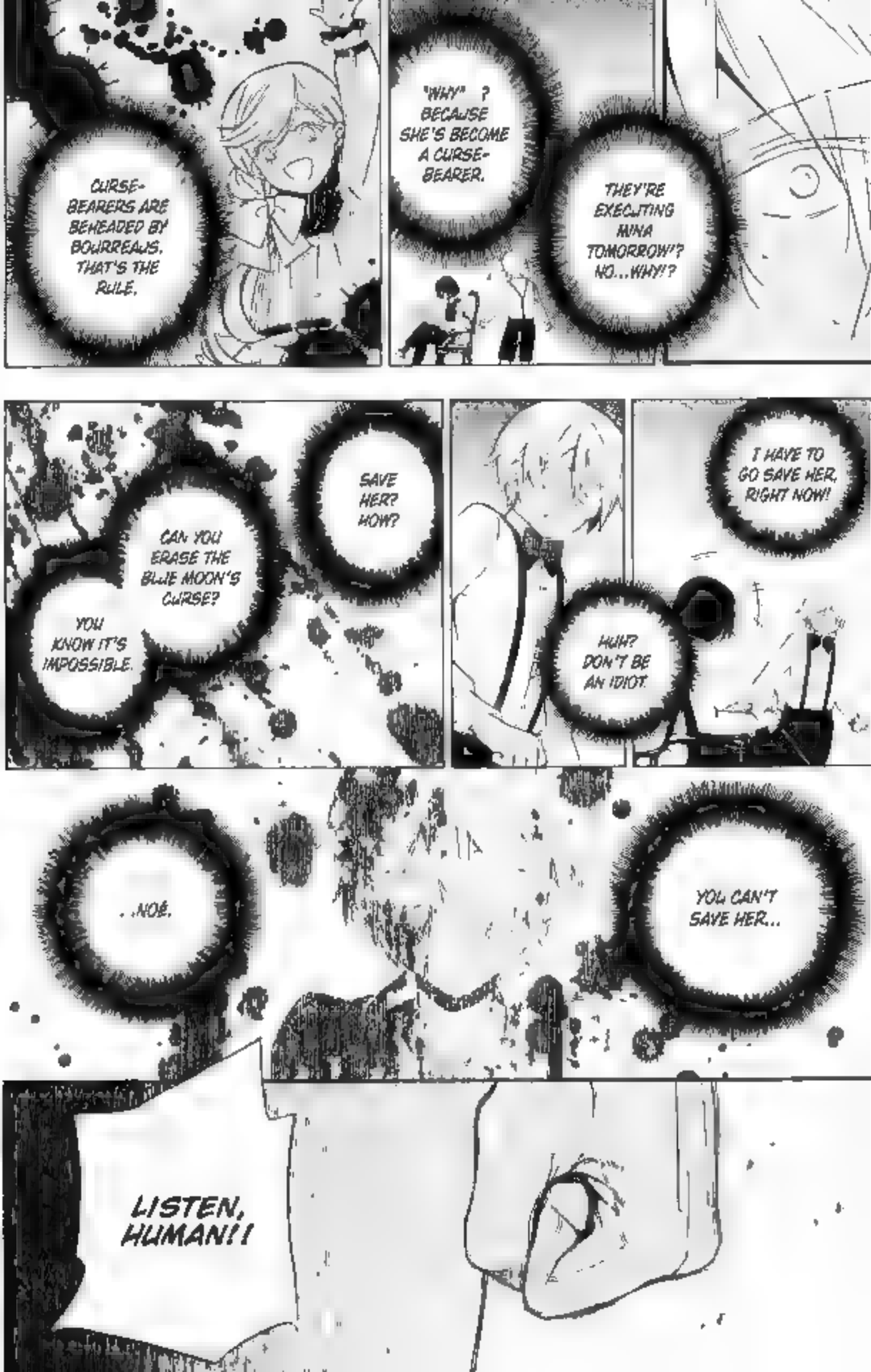
PLOTTING!? I RESENT THAT!
I CALLED YOU HERE TO MAKE YOU CONFESS WHAT THE MAN WHO CLAIMS TO BE VANITAS IS PLOTTING.
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.

DON'T GET CONCEITED, HUMAN!!
SAVE US..?

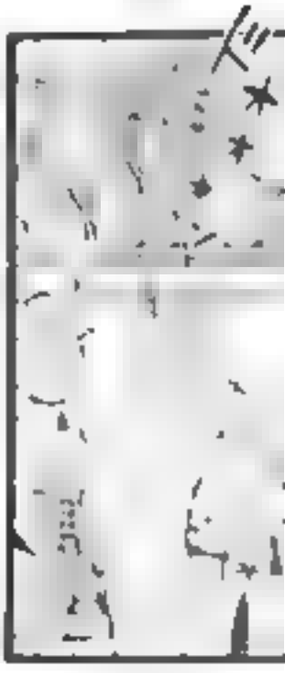

AND HERE I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOU VAMPIRES FROM THE PATH OF DESTRUCTION.


ARE YOU THAT RELUCTANT TO ADMIT THAT THE BOOK OF VANITAS EXISTS!?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TRICKERY YOU USED, BUT SHE'S SURE TO TURN VIOLENT AGAIN SOON
SHE MERELY HAPPENED TO BE CALM.
YOU'VE SPOKEN WITH AMELIA, HAVEN'T YOU? IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PERFECTLY OBVIOUS THAT SHE WAS IN HER RIGHT MIND.

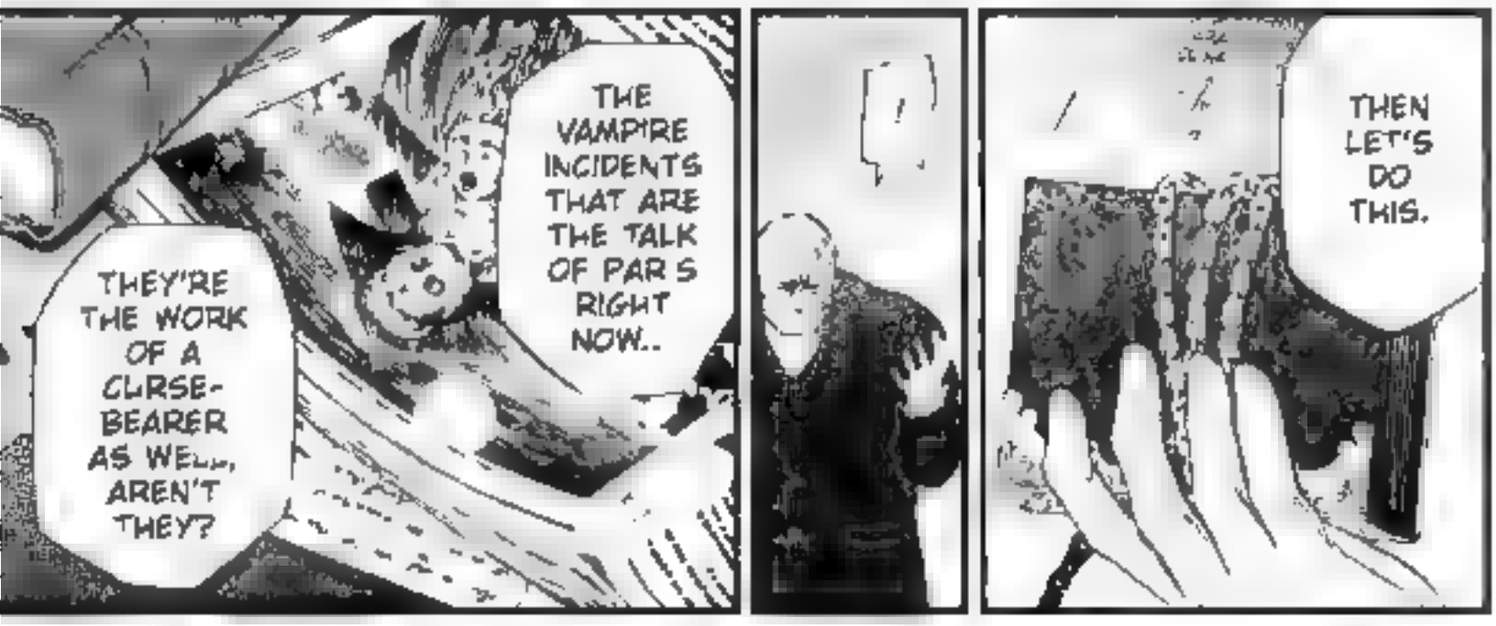
THAT HAS BEEN OUR WAY SINCE THE OLD DAYS!
UPON DISCOVERY, CURSE-BEARERS MUST BE ISOLATED AND BEHEADED BY A BOURREAU.


CURSE-BEARERS ARE BEHEADED BY BOURREAUX. THAT'S THE RULE.
"WHY"? BECAUSE SHE'S BECOME A CURSE-BEARER.
THEY'RE EXECUTING MINA TOMORROW!? NO...WHY!?
SAVE HER? HOW?
CAN YOU ERASE THE BLUE MOON'S CURSE?
YOU KNOW IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
I HAVE TO GO SAVE HER, RIGHT NOW!
HUH? DON'T BE AN IDIOT.
...NOÉ.
YOU CAN'T SAVE HER...
LISTEN, HUMAN!!

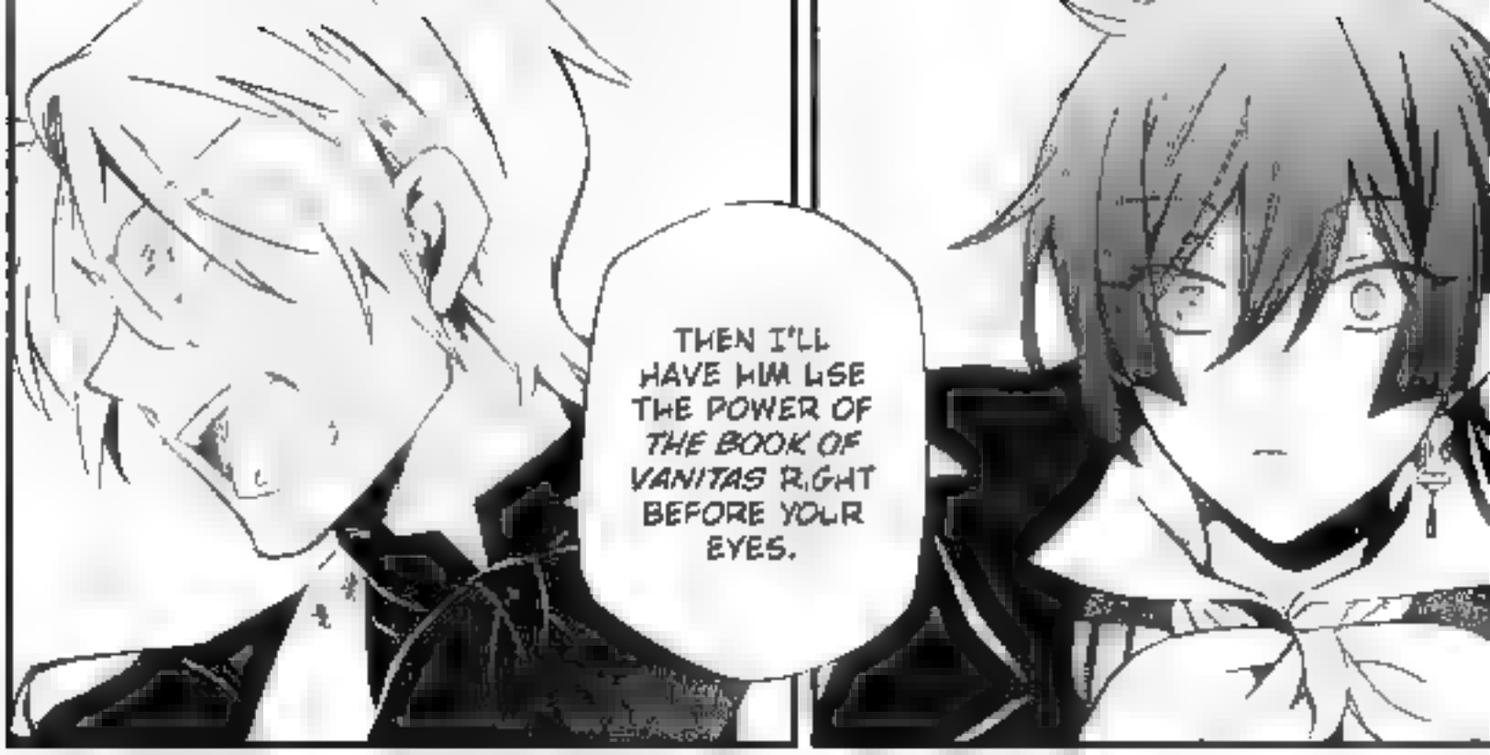
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR A VAMPIRE WHOSE TRUE NAME HAS BEEN DEFILED TO RETURN TO NORMAL!!
KA!!
THIS IS EXACTLY THE PROBLEM WITH SENILE OLD FOOLS WHO CHAIN THEMSELVES TO PAST CONVENTIONS AND STOP THINKING!!
YOU WRETCH !!!
NOT ONE SINGLE THING.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.



ALL RIGHT.


THEY'RE THE WORK OF A CURSE-BEARER AS WELL, AREN'T THEY?
THE VAMPIRE INCIDENTS THAT ARE THE TALK OF PAR S RIGHT NOW..
!
THEN LET'S DO THIS.

...WE'LL CAPTURE THE CULPRIT AND BRING THEM HERE!
IN THAT CASE...


THEN I'LL HAVE HIM LOSE THE POWER OF *THE BOOK OF VANITAS* RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES.

YOU SAY YOU CAN'T TRUST HIS WORD...
...OR MINE, EVEN THOUGH I'M OF YOUR RACE
THEN SEE WHAT *THE BOOK OF VANITAS* TRULY IS WITH YOUR OWN EYES!

...VERY WELL
I'LL STAY AMELIA RUTH'S EXECUTION BY ONE DAY— BUT ONLY ONE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

IT'S FINE.
ARE YOU CERTAIN ABOUT THIS, MASTER PARKS?
BUT, SIR!

WHY ARE YOU SPACING OUT? LET'S GET MOVING, VANITAS!!
BWUH!?

NO!!
HUH?
HUH ..? OHHHHHH!? HAVE YOU F NALLY DECIDED TO HELP ME, NOÉ!?

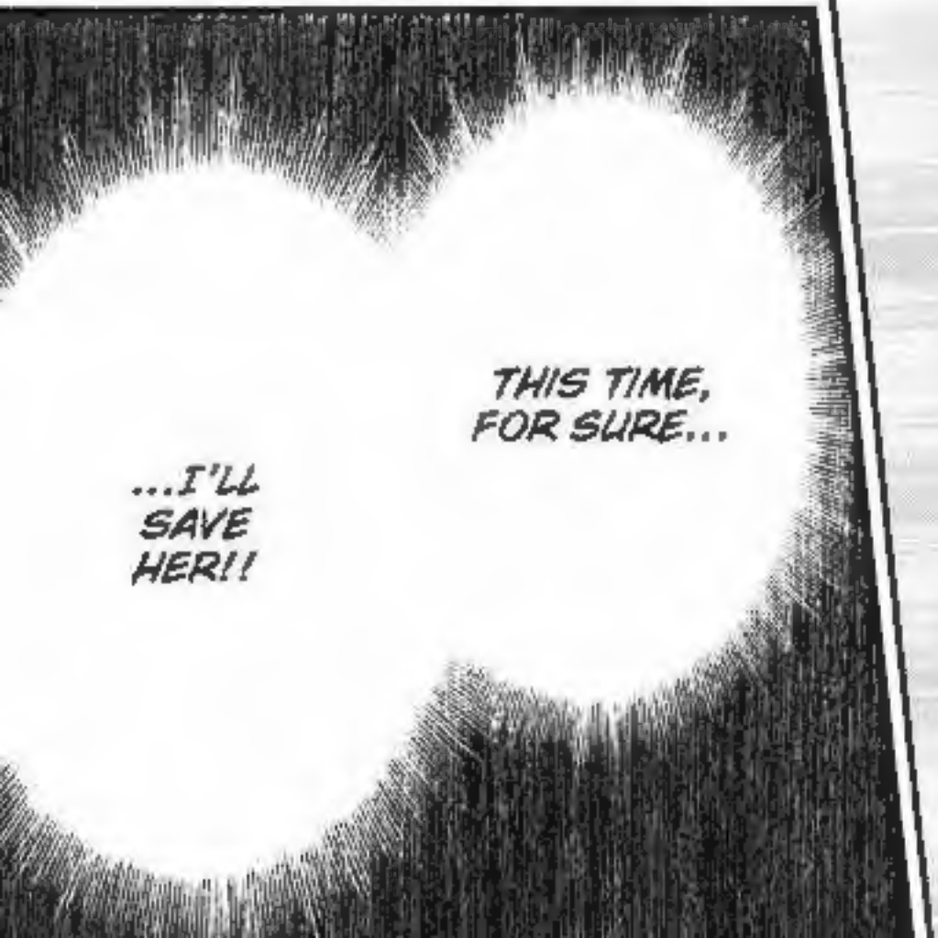
YOU ARE HELPING ME!!
I AM NOT HELPING YOU.

3°
HA HA HA!
AH HA HA HA HA!

BRILLIANT!
I KNEW IT.
YOU REALLY ARE
INTERESTING!

NOT ONE SINGLE THING.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.

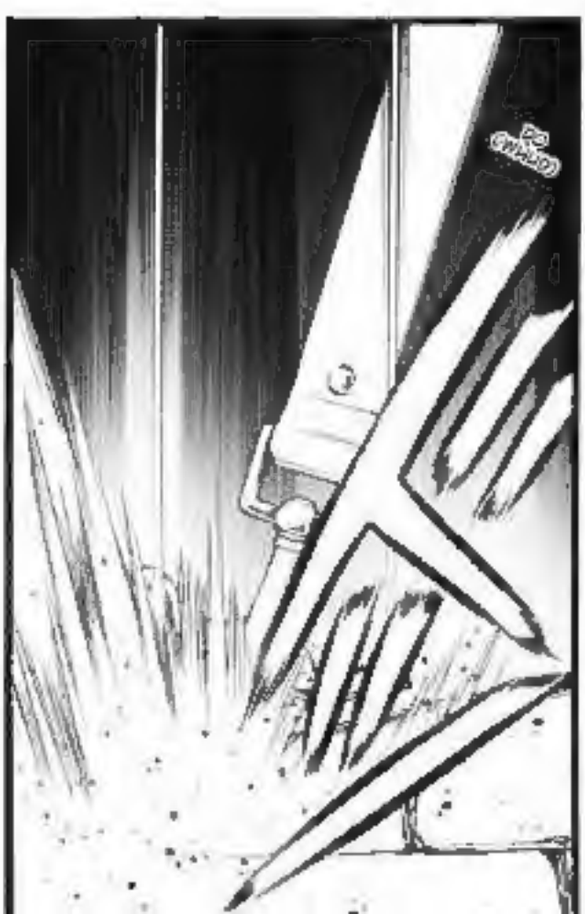
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.


THIS TIME, FOR SURE...
...I'LL SAVE HER!!

ZA (SLIDE)

CHA (CHAK)

ROB-
BERS...
PER-
HAPS?


PO (THUD)

I HOPE HE MANAGES TO CONNECT WITH THEM, BUT...
PIKU (TWITCH)
MASTER LUCA.

—THE VAMPIRE INCIDENT ON LA BALEINE LAST NIGHT...
AS EXPECTED, APPARENTLY "VANITAS" WAS INVOLVED.
HIS NEXT TARGET WILL PROBABLY BE THE VAMPIRE WHO PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SHOUTING ABOUT FOR DAYS.

HAAH...

...!?

...JEANNE.

GU (GRIND)
SHI
NO MATTER WHO TRIES TO HARM YOU...
...EVEN IF IT'S THE CURSE-SPREADING BLUE MOON VAMPIRE...
GO

HOWEVER... I CAN'T FORGIVE ANYONE WHO TURNS THEIR BLADE ON YOU.
GU (GRIT)
GO.

I KNOW I'M REPEATING MYSELF, BUT YOU MUSTN'T KILL, ALL RIGHT!?
I KNOW.
GU (GRIT)

I WILL...
...CRUSH THEM ALL.
TO BE CONTINUED...